

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated October 3, 2002. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 14, 17, 28-29, 31-32, 36-37 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 7 stand objected to because of various informalities, which have been corrected. Additionally, Claim 28, Claim 31 and Claim 37 also stand rejected to for various informalities. These have been corrected in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 15 stands objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. This claim has been cancelled.

Claims 4, 8 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended these claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. These claims are now believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection, the withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hsieh et al.* in view of *Tower et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Applicant's present inventive concept, as defined by the amended claims, is directed toward a crossbar switch that is operable to couple signals from an input to an output on a priority basis. One of the advantages noted in the specification that is provided by coupling from an input to an output based on priority is that a high priority signal associated with particular inputs, these inputs also being high priority, requires less potential output connections. For example, it is noted that the SMBus connectors, as one example, can only be connected to two output pins. Therefore, there need be no interconnections provided to the rest of the output pins. The claims have been amended to indicate that the number of destinations that can be coupled to a high priority signal is less than the number of destinations that

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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could be coupled to a signal of relatively lower priority. This is basically the reason that the "triangle" configuration of Figure 2 has been set forth.

The *Hsieh et al.* reference only discloses a triangular cross point switch which sets forth that the triangular cross point array has hard wire connections associated therewith for the purpose of eliminating switches. It is noted in Col. 1, line 55 that this array makes relatively inefficient use of the surface area of an integrated circuit. Further, there is no priority with regard to the signals, as each input P0-P31 can be connected to *any* of the other inputs P0-P31. The Examiner has utilized the *Tower et al.* reference for the priority aspect. The priority disclosed in *Tower et al.* is with respect to access wherein there is a control bus from arbitration that grants access to a requester with the highest priority. This priority is based upon a module as the requester. This appears to be a conventional bus arbitration scheme wherein a high priority signal can attach to a given port. However, there is no disclosure in *Tower et al.* that suggests a combination of *Tower et al.*, which is directed toward a bus arbitration scheme, to allow it to be combined with the *Hsieh et al.* reference. Further, even though the two are combined, there is no disclosure or suggestion in either of the references, taken singularly or in combination, that sets forth that high priority signals will have access to a fewer number of destinations than lower priority signals. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 1-2.

Claim 4 stands rejected over *Hsieh et al.* in view of *Tower et al.* for the reasons stated above. Claim 4 depends from Claim 1 and, therefore, for the reasons described with respect to Claim 1, Claim 4 is believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection, the withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-21 stand rejected over a combination of *Hsieh et al.* and *Tower et al.* Again, these are dependent claims and, for the reasons described above with respect to Claims 1 and 2, the withdrawal of this rejection with respect to these claims is respectfully requested.

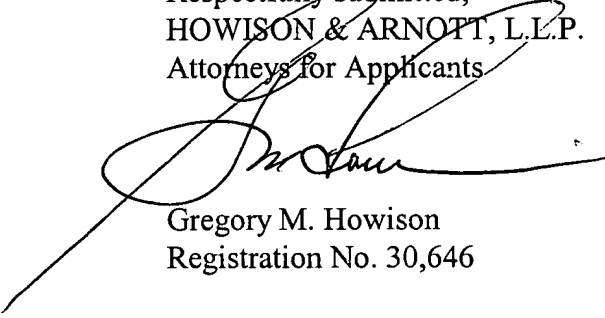
Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hsieh et al.* in view of *Tower et al.* and further in view of *Hsieh et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,428,750). With respect to the '750 patent, there is no disclosure setting forth that the priority level of the signal involves a portion of the cross bar that has less available inputs or outputs. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection with respect to Claim 3. From the Examiner's comments on page 8 of the Office Action, it appears that Claim 12 is also subject to this rejection and, therefore, a rejection of Claim 12 for this reason is also addressed herein and a withdrawal of that rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 22-45 have also been rejected in view of *Hsieh et al.* and *Tower et al.* However, for the reasons described above, each of these claims is not believed to be anticipated or obviated by *Hsieh et al.* or *Tower et al.*, taken singularly or in combination, as none of these references disclose the aspect of a cross point switch that utilizes priority for coupling the signals between an input port and an output port wherein a high priority signal has available to it less destinations than a low priority signal. Therefore, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection with respect to these claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's detailed analysis of each claim and how the references were applied thereto. This was quite helpful in preparing this response.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/CYGL-24,696 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Gregory M. Howison
Registration No. 30,646

GMH:keb

P.O. Box 741715
Dallas, Texas 75374-1715
Tel: 972-479-0462
Fax: 972-479-0464
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